Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method of making a population of reverse-immortalised human ~~functional~~ olfactory ensheathing glia (OEG) cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons, for transplantation into a patient, which comprises:

a) providing a sample of primary human OEG cells;
b) immortalizing the OEG cells by transforming the OEG cells with a vector comprising ~~DNA construct comprising~~ a removable DNA segment containing an oncogene or combination of oncogenes, thereby producing immortalised OEG cells;
c) growing the immortalised OEG cells;
d) selecting those immortalised OEG clonal cell lines which maintain the property of promoting axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons ~~their functional properties~~; and
e) removing the DNA segment ~~oncogene or combination of oncogenes~~ from the immortalised OEG cells, the removal resulting in the production of the population of reverse-immortalised human ~~functional~~ OEG cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons, for transplantation into the patient.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA segment ~~oncogene or combination of oncogenes~~ is made removable by flanking it with recombinase target sites, and the removing is accomplished by introducing into the immortalised cells a gene that is expressed to produce a recombinase that specifically recognizes the recombinase target sites.

3. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 2, wherein the recombinase is Cre recombinase and the recombinase target sites are loxP sites.

4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the oncogene is the gene encoding SV40 large T antigen, the gene encoding telomerase catalytic subunit, the gene encoding Bmi-1 protein or any combination of said oncogenes.

5. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the removable DNA segment further contains a suicide gene, which encodes a gene product that enables destruction of the immortalised cells by an exogenous agent if the removable DNA segment is not removed from the cells.

6. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 5, wherein the suicide gene is a gene encoding herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase, and the cells are destroyed by exposure to gancyclovir if the removable DNA segment is not removed from the cells.

7. (Currently Amended) A population of reverse-immortalised human ~~functiona~~l OEG cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration, for transplantation into a patient, producible ~~produced~~ by the method of claim 5.

8. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient for neural damage, comprising transplanting into the patient a sufficient quantity of the reverse-immortalised human OEG cells of claim 7 to provide promotion of neuronal regeneration in the neuronal injured region of the patient.

9. (Currently Amended) A method of making a population of reverse-immortalised human ~~functiona~~l OEG cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons, for transplanting into a patient, which comprises:

a) providing a sample of primary human OEG cells;

b) immortalizing the OEG cells by transforming the OEG cells with a vector comprising a removable DNA construct ~~comprising a removable DNA segment~~ containing an oncogene or a combination of oncogenes, a selectable marker gene, and a gene encoding herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase, the genes together being flanked on either side by loxP sites;

c) growing the immortalised human OEG cells;

d) selecting those immortalised OEG clonal cell lines which maintain the property of promoting axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons ~~their functional properties~~; and

e) reversing the immortalization of the human OEG cells by removing the DNA ~~segment~~ construct from the immortalised OEG cells, the removing being accomplished by introducing into the immortalised OEG cells a gene encoding Cre recombinase to effect excision of the DNA ~~segment~~construct at the loxP sites, the excision resulting in the production of the population of reverse-immortalised human ~~functional~~ OEG cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons for transplanting into a patient.

10. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 9, wherein the oncogene is the gene encoding SV40 large T antigen, the gene encoding telomerase catalytic subunit, the gene encoding Bmi-1 protein or any combination of said oncogenes.

11. (Currently Amended) A population of reverse-immortalised human ~~functional~~ OEG cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration, for transplantation into a patient, producible ~~produced~~ by the method of claim 9.

12. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient for neural damage, comprising transplanting into the patient a sufficient quantity of the reverse-immortalised human OEG cells of claim 11 to provide promotion of neuronal regeneration in the neuronal injured region of the patient.

13. (Currently Amended) A ~~An~~ reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell, which has the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons, comprising a primary human OEG cell transformed with a vector comprising a DNA construct comprising two recombinase target sites that flank an oncogene or combination of oncogenes which confers immortalization to the OEG cell, wherein the immortalization is reversible by excision of the DNA construct ~~oncogene~~ by cleavage at the recombinase target sites when the target sites are exposed to a recombinase that specifically recognizes the target sites.

14. (Currently Amended) The reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell of claim 13, wherein the recombinase target sites are loxP sites and the immortalization is reversible by Cre recombinase cleavage at the loxP sites.

15. (Currently Amended) The reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell of claim 13, wherein the DNA construct further comprises a selectable marker gene.

16. (Currently Amended) The reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell of claim 13, wherein the DNA construct further comprises a suicide gene, which encodes a gene product that enables destruction of the immortalised OEG cell by an exogenous agent if the DNA construct ~~oncogene~~ is not removed from the cells.

17. (Currently Amended) The reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell of claim 16, wherein the suicide gene is a gene encoding herpes simplex virus thymidine kinase, and the exogenous agent is gancyclovir.

18. (Currently Amended) A cell line comprising a population of the reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell of claim 13.

19. (Currently Amended) A reverse-immortalised ~~OEG~~ human OEG cell, which has the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons ~~that is functional~~ upon transplantation into a patient, produced by exposing the DNA construct within the reversibly-immortalised human OEG cell of claim 13 to a recombinase that excises the DNA construct ~~oncogene or combination of oncogenes~~ by cleavage at the recombinase target sites.

20. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient for neural damage, comprising transplanting into the patient a sufficient quantity of the reverse-immortalised ~~OEG~~ human OEG cells of claim 19 to provide promotion of neuronal regeneration in the neuronal injured region of the patient.

21. (Currently Amended) A cell library comprising a population ~~collection~~ of reverse-immortalised OEG human cells, which have the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons, prepared according to the method of claim 1.

22. (Currently Amended) A reverse-immortalised ~~functional~~ human olfactory ensheathing glia (OEG) cell line, which has the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Currently Amended) A pharmaceutical composition comprising a reverse-immortalised human OEG cell line as defined in claim 22, and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

26. (Cancelled).

27. (Currently Amended) A cell library comprising a collection of reverse-immortalised human OEG ~~human~~ cells prepared according to the method of claim 9.

28. (Currently Amended) A method of treating a patient for neural damage, comprising transplanting into the patient a sufficient quantity of the reverse-immortalised ~~OEG~~ human OEG cells of the cell line of claim 22 to provide promotion of neuronal regeneration in the neuronal injured region of the patient.

29. (New) The method of claim 8, wherein the neuronal damage is traumatic lesions of the brain and spinal cord.

30. (New) The method of claim 12, wherein the neuronal damage is traumatic lesions of the brain and spinal cord.

31. (New) The method of claim 20, wherein the neuronal damage is traumatic lesions of the brain and spinal cord.

32. (New) The method of claim 28, wherein the neuronal damage is traumatic lesions of the brain and spinal cord.

33. (New) A method of making a reversibly-immortalised human olfactory ensheathing glia (OEG) cell, that has the ability to promote axonal regeneration from adult CNS neurons, which comprises:

a) providing a primary human OEG cell;

b) conferring immortalization to the OEG cell by transforming the OEG cell with a vector comprising DNA construct comprising two recombinase target sites that flank an oncogene or combination of oncogenes, wherein the immortalization is reversible by excision of the DNA

construct by cleavage at the recombinase target sites when the target sites are exposed to a recombinase that specifically recognizes the target sites.